

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of diagnosing lung damage in a mammal, which mammal is not exhibiting a symptom specific to lung damage, said method comprising screening for an increase in the levels of SP-A and/or, SP-B, ~~SP-C and/or SP-D~~ in the body fluid of said mammal relative to a normal reference level.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said lung damage is early stage lung damage.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein said early stage lung damage is alveolo-capillary membrane damage.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or 3 or 4, wherein said pulmonary surfactant is SP-B.
7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or 3 or 4, wherein said body fluid is blood.
8. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring for changes in the extent of lung damage in a mammal, which mammal is not exhibiting a symptom specific to lung

damage, said method comprising screening for the modulation of the levels of SP-A and/or, SP-B, ~~SP-C and/or SP-D~~ in the body fluid of said mammal relative to a normal reference level.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein said lung damage is alveolo-capillary membrane damage.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein said pulmonary surfactant is SP-B

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein said body fluid is blood.

13.- 36.(Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said body fluid is blood.

38. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 or 9 wherein said body fluid is blood.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, where said mammal is predisposed to developing lung damage.

40. (Canceled)

41. (New) A method of diagnosing lung damage in a mammal during a period in which the onset of lung damage cannot otherwise be confirmed without the aid of one or more

invasive procedures, said method comprising screening for an increase in the levels of SP-A and/or SP-B in the body fluid of said mammal relative to a normal reference level.

42. (New) A method of monitoring for changes in the extent of lung damage in a mammal, during a period in which the onset of lung damage cannot otherwise be confirmed without the aid of one or more invasive procedures, said method comprising screening for the modulation of the levels of SP-A and/or SP-B in the body fluid of said mammal relative to a normal reference level.